

Payson Area Environmental News



Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Fall 2002

2002 Open House and Public Meeting: Community and Stakeholder Input Requested

You are invited to attend the sixth annual Payson open house on Nov. 12! ADEQ, with the help of the town of Payson, will hold the annual Payson open house and public meeting to gather input on the Payson PCE proposed remedial action plan and to present information and seek public comment on future uses of land and water for the Tonto and Cherry WQARF site as part of the draft remedial investigation report. The meeting will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. at the expanded groundwater treatment system facility, which is located at 204 W. Aero Drive. Tours of the facility and an open house will be held from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., ADEQ and their technical contractors will provide presentations, answer questions and receive public comments.

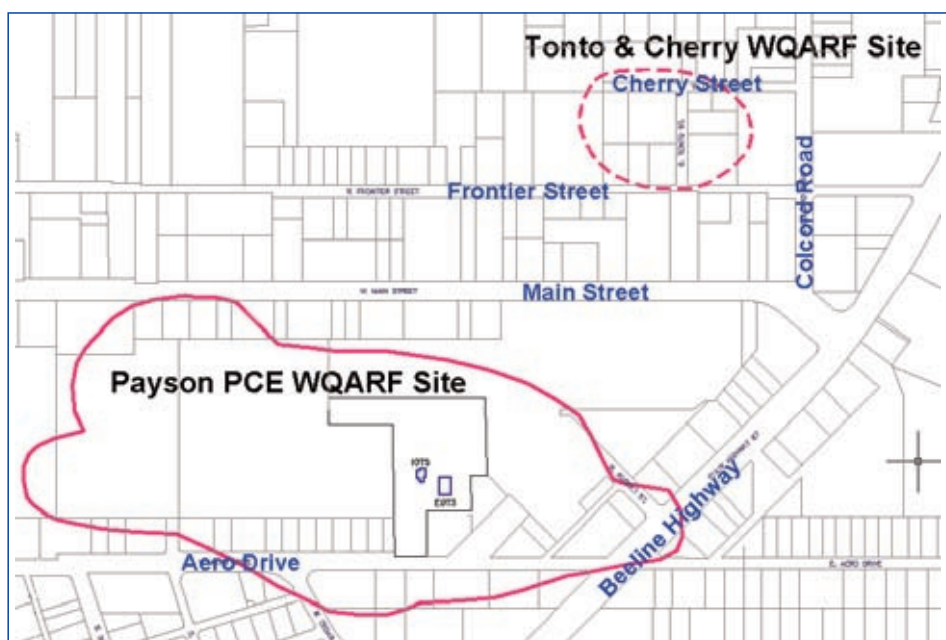
The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has published this factsheet for the community near the Payson PCE and the Tonto and Cherry WQARF sites.

Payson PCE WQARF Site

Groundwater Remediation Continues at the Payson PCE Site

In 1990, while beginning development of new water supply wells near the intersection of Aero Drive and South Meadow Street, town of Payson officials discovered that two of the wells were contaminated by *perchloroethene* (PCE), a common man-made dry cleaning solvent. ADEQ began sampling *groundwater* throughout the area. As a result of this investigation, the Payson PCE site was added to the *Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund* (WQARF) Priority List in December 1993.

After years of extensive investigations and coordination with the town of Payson, ADEQ began the installation two groundwater treatment systems which are located at 204 W. Aero Drive. The interim groundwater treatment system is designed to capture and contain the source of *contamination*. The expanded groundwater treatment system is designed to capture and contain the remainder of the contamination. Both systems began operation in 1998. The treated water from these systems is provided to the town as drinking water, and comprises approximately one-sixth of the town's total drinking water supply.



Early Response Actions at the Site

Early Response Actions (ERAs) are accelerated cleanups conducted to address current risk to public health and the environment, protect or provide a supply of water, address sources of contamination, or control or contain contamination where such actions are expected to reduce the cost of the remedy needed at the site. In Payson, ERAs were conducted to ensure the town would receive safe drinking water. Throughout the ERA processes, ADEQ continued to gather information regarding the source and the extent of the contamination in the groundwater.

ERA activities conducted at the site include the installation of the two groundwater treatment systems, the removal of a septic tank, piping and a cesspool, and the distribution of bottled water to impacted private well owners. Additionally, in April 2001, ADEQ began the construction of a *soil vapor extraction* (SVE) system at the source area. The SVE work is now complete and verification testing is being conducted. These actions were taken to help minimize the source of contamination to the groundwater.

ADEQ Completes the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Reports

Based on the information and data collected since the discovery of the site in 1990, ADEQ has released the final remedial investigation report for the site. An remedial investigation report identifies the extent and nature of the soil and groundwater contamination, summarizes the ERAs conducted, identifies the source(s) of contamination, discusses current and potential impacts to public health and the environment, and assesses information regarding future uses of the land and waters affected by the site. ADEQ collected public and stakeholder input on future uses of the land and groundwater affected by the site at the July 2001 Payson open house. ADEQ then prepared the remedial objectives for the site, identifying the current and reasonably foreseeable land and water uses to be protected by the remedy. At the Payson PCE site, the start-up, operation and continued maintenance of the two ground-

water treatment systems and the SVE system are the interim remedies. ADEQ is conducting public involvement to help determine the appropriate final remedy efforts for the Payson PCE site.

Since the final remedial investigation report is complete and cleanup objectives have been identified, ADEQ has prepared a feasibility study report. A feasibility study report evaluates and identifies remedies that will meet the cleanup objectives. Once the feasibility study report is finalized, ADEQ will prepare a proposed remedial action plan (PRAP). A PRAP outlines ADEQ's preferred remedial action for the site. The PRAP will be available for public review and comment. ADEQ will be gathering input on the PRAP at the 2002 Payson open house. Once the PRAP comment period has expired, ADEQ will prepare a record of decision for the site. The record of decision documents the final remedy selected for the site.

Tonto and Cherry Site Groundwater Contamination at Tonto and Cherry Streets

From 1994 until 1998, ADEQ conducted several preliminary assessments and site inspections near Grand Way Cleaners after PCE was discovered in nearby private wells. In June 2000, the Tonto and Cherry site was added to the WQARF Registry. In September 2000, ADEQ and Geotrans, ADEQ's technical contractor, conducted *soil gas* surveys in and around Grand Way Cleaners and identified two suspected



100,000 gallon chlorine contact tank outside the expanded groundwater treatment system

source areas. In January and February 2001, ADEQ installed three groundwater monitoring wells near Tonto and Cherry streets. Additionally, as part of an ERA, ADEQ provided bottled water to impacted private well owners in the area.

Monitoring Wells Installed at Tonto and Cherry

ADEQ's original plans were to install an *extraction well* near the Tonto and Cherry source areas, pump out the contaminated groundwater, and pipe the water to the existing expanded groundwater treatment system. During the drilling and sampling of the new monitoring wells, it was discovered that the concentrations in the groundwater were not as high as originally anticipated. In light of the new data, ADEQ has decided not to install the extraction well at this time. Additionally, the rate of groundwater flow through the Tonto and Cherry area is too low to allow for sufficient pumping and transfer to the expanded groundwater treatment system. ADEQ will continue to conduct semi-annual groundwater quality sampling of the new monitoring wells and quarterly monitoring of nearby private wells.

In November 2001, ADEQ installed three nested vapor points at the suspected source areas. One of those vapor points was also completed as a monitoring well which was angle drilled underneath the Grand Way Cleaners building.

Sufficient data have now been collected for ADEQ to prepare the draft remedial investigation report. Once the draft remedial investigation report is completed, ADEQ will seek input from the community and other stakeholders regarding future uses of land and water affected by the Tonto and Cherry site. ADEQ will be gathering this input at the 2002 Payson open house and public meeting. The Tonto and Cherry site will undergo the same process as the Payson PCE site in the selection of a final remedy.

Risks Associated with Contamination

The majority of risk associated with groundwater contaminated with PCE comes from long-term direct exposure to the water by ingestion. Currently, ADEQ is providing bottled drinking water to impacted private well owners, at the state's expense, until alternative water supplies are available. If your water is provided by the town of Payson, your drinking water is

safe and there is no threat of exposure to this contamination. The water from the system is sampled and tested regularly to ensure that the water meets both the state and federal drinking water standards. If you own a private well, are using that well for drinking water, live within 1/4 mile of the site boundaries, and have not had your well tested, please contact ADEQ Project Manager David Haag at (602) 771-4455 or, toll free in Arizona, (800) 234-5677, Ext. 771-4455.

Local Community Advisory Board Working with ADEQ for More Than Five Years

The Payson PCE Community Advisory Board (CAB) was established in June 1998 and has been meeting on a regular basis since its inception. In December 2000, three additional members representing the Tonto and Cherry WQARF site were added to the CAB and the name of the CAB was changed to the Payson WQARF sites CAB. Currently, this CAB:

- Provides comments to ADEQ on various remediation techniques, and other issues related to the site
- Participates in outreach to the community
- Provides assistance in planning and facilitating public meetings and open houses
- Assists in distributing information from ADEQ to the community
- Ensures that the opinions and concerns of the residents are accurately understood by ADEQ

If you would like to serve on the CAB or would like to be notified of the CAB meetings, please contact Community Involvement Coordinator Tina Wesoloskie at (602) 771-4238 or, toll free in Arizona, (800) 234-5677, Ext. 771-4238 for a CAB application. Applications will be considered at a regularly scheduled CAB meeting in compliance with Arizona's Open Meeting Law and voted on by the existing CAB members.

Information about the Payson PCE and Tonto and Cherry sites is available at the Payson Library, which is located at 328 N. McLane Road, (928) 474-9260. The documents may also be reviewed at ADEQ's main office located at 1110 W. Washington St. in Phoenix. Please call the ADEQ file coordinator at (602) 771-4420 or, toll free in Arizona, (800) 234-5677, Ext. 771-4420, for a file review appointment.

The Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund and the Registry Explained

The WQARF Program was established by Arizona law to conduct statewide surface and groundwater monitoring, study health effects, perform emergency remedial actions and conduct long-term remedial action programs. The WQARF Program is funded with state monies, civil and criminal penalties, and funds recovered from parties responsible for contamination.

ADEQ has established a Registry of sites in Arizona where groundwater and/or soil contamination is known to be present. Sites appearing on this Registry qualify for funds available from WQARF for investigation and/or cleanup of contamination. Sites on the Registry are given a numeric score based in part upon the type of contaminant(s) present, the location of the contaminant(s), and the number of people that may be affected by the contaminant(s). Scores are used to help determine relative risk at the site and do not necessarily mean that there is a direct risk to humans or the environment. The score of the Payson PCE and Tonto and Cherry sites are 63 and 45,

respectively, out of a possible 120.

For further information on this site or other WQARF sites, please visit www.adeq.state.az.us/enviro/waste/sps/ and follow the prompts for the information you need. The Superfund Web page also has all past agendas and meeting minutes from the Payson CAB meetings. A hard copy of the site information on the Web site is available in the Superfund Programs Section Information Booklet. This document may be purchased by contacting the information desk at (602) 771-2202 or, toll free in Arizona, (800) 234-5677, Ext. 771-2202.

How to Obtain More Information

You may contact David Haag, ADEQ project manager, (602) 771-4455, toll free in Arizona, (800) 234-5677, Ext. 771-4455 or haag.david@ev.state.az.us or Tina Wesoloskie, ADEQ community involvement coordinator, (602) 771-4238, toll free in Arizona, (800) 234-5677, Ext. 771-4238 or wesoloskie.tina@ev.state.az.us. Hearing impaired persons may call our TDD line at (602) 771-4829.

If you or anyone you know is interested in obtaining more information about the Payson PCE and/or Tonto and Cherry sites, please complete and return the attached mailing form.

The local ADEQ office is located at 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, 85007. The Superfund Programs Section's fax number is (602) 771-4236.

Glossary

Contamination – Contamination is the presence of any contaminant, including hazardous substances, in groundwater, surface water or soil above a regulatory level.

Extraction well – An extraction well is a well specifically designed to withdraw groundwater or soil gas for treatment.

Groundwater – Groundwater is the water found beneath the earth's surface. This includes water that fills the spaces within and between materials such as sand, soil, gravel or fractured bedrock as well as water found in underground streams. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities that can be used for



Granular activated carbon tanks and piping inside the expanded groundwater treatment system.

drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

Soil gas – Soil gas is gaseous elements and compounds that fill the small spaces between soil particles.

Soil vapor extraction (SVE) – SVE is a commonly used technique for cleaning up contaminated soils. SVE draws gases from the contaminated soils and through the extraction system where they are treated or discharged into the air. SVE removes VOCs from soil beneath the ground surface.

Perchloroethene (PCE) – PCE is a clear, colorless,

nonflammable solvent that readily evaporates at room temperature. PCE is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and degreasing/drying of metals.

Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) – WQARF is a program established by the Arizona State Legislature and administered by ADEQ to (1) conduct statewide surface and groundwater monitoring, study health effects, perform emergency remedial actions and conduct long-term remedial action programs. The WQARF program is funded with state monies, civil and criminal penalties, and funds recovered from responsible parties. WQARF is also known as Arizona's "State Superfund."